

Application No.: 09/965,646
Response to Office Action of 07/31/2003
Attorney Docket: DYKIN-014A

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

5. (previously presented) A method of controlling a wire winder, said method including:
as a tower travels around a tank, generating a square wave from a wheel drive;
feeding said square wave to a counter and counting a number of said square waves;
comparing the number of counts with a number selected by an operator for a spacing location;
powering a proportional hydraulic valve, and thereby pressurizing fluid into an elevator hydraulic motor;
thereby rotating the motor until the spacing counter has counted the pre-selected number; and
shutting the hydraulic flow.
6. (original) A method according to Claim 5 in which the square waves generated from the wheels and elevator motor are from optical encoders and fed to a counter.
7. (original) A method according to Claim 5 in which the square waves generated from the wheels and elevator motor are from segmental commutator rings and fed to a counter.
8. (original) A method of according to Claim 5 in which a strip chart recorder records information from various transducers as the tower travels.
9. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 8 in which paper in the strip chart recorder is fed in direct relation to the movement of the tower so that the location of events recorded on the paper by the strip chart recorder can be related to the events.
10. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 8 in which a controller automatically turns on the recorder on and selects an appropriate paper speed for paper used in the recorder.
11. (original) A method according to Claim 5 in which the square wave provides feedback for low cost proportional valves.

Claims 12-21 (canceled)

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22. (previously presented) A winder for tensioning a strand of material being wrapped around a tank in order to pre-stress the tank, the winder being connected to a tower traveling around the tank, the winder comprising:
- a first rotating gripper engaging the strand of material at a first, constant radius;
 - a second rotating gripper downstream of the first gripper and engaging the strand of material, the second gripper using a differential winder to apply a tension to the strand which leaves the second gripper;
 - a brake between the first and second gripper;
 - a brake on the first gripper to vary the rotation of the first gripper and vary the tension in the strand of material between the first and second grippers.
23. (previously presented) The winder of Claim 22, wherein the brake is a stationary brake.
24. (previously presented) The winder of Claim 22, wherein the brake is a liquid cooled brake.
25. (previously presented) The winder of Claim 22, further comprising a balance motor driving the second gripper.
26. (previously presented) The winder of Claim 23, further comprising a balance motor driving the second gripper.
27. (previously presented) The winder of Claim 24, further comprising a balance motor driving the second gripper.
28. (previously presented) The winder of Claim 22, wherein the first gripper receives the strand directly from the spool.
29. (currently amended) The winder of Claim 22, wherein the second gripper comprises a sprocket with two different pitch circumferences ~~corresponding to the second and third radius.~~

Claims 30-33 (cancelled).